



News Release

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10 Prominent Scientists Named to Delta Panel

Independent Science Board will provide oversight of scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs in the Delta

SACRAMENTO – The Delta Stewardship Council today appointed 10 nationally and internationally prominent scientists to the Delta Independent Science Board as required by legislation signed into law last November.

“The future policy decisions we will be discussing and adopting into the Delta Plan need to be based on sound science,” said Council Chair Phil Isenberg. “Having access to a talented independent science board allows the Council to fully evaluate the complex ecological issues facing the Delta.”

The Delta ISB reports to the full Council and will provide oversight of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management of the Delta through periodic reviews of each of those programs. By law, these reviews must be scheduled to ensure that all Delta scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs are reviewed at least once every four years.

The 10 members of the science panel were recommended by Council Interim Lead Scientist Dr. Cliff Dahm, in consultation with former CALFED Science Board Chair Jeff Mount, and Phil Isenberg. The members will serve five-year terms, may serve no more than two terms.

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“These ten scientists bring a wide range of relevant knowledge as well as scientific stature and independence to the study of the Delta,” said Council Interim Lead Scientist Dr. Cliff Dahm. “Their collective expertise covers a large number of disciplines including geology, seismology, entomology, hydrology, fish biology, resource management and habitat restoration. Individually each is more than qualified. As a team, they will be invaluable.”

Named to the panel are:

Brian Atwater, Geologist, U.S. Geological Survey (since 1974) and Affiliate Faculty, University of Washington, Seattle, WA (since 1986). Dr. Atwater is best known for using coastal geology to help identify and define earthquake and tsunami hazards in the Cascadia region of British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California. This work has included comparative studies in Alaska, Chile, and Japan. He is a member of the National Academy of Science.

Elizabeth Canuel, Professor, Department of Physical Sciences, School of Marine Science, The College of William & Mary, Gloucester Point, VA. Dr. Canuel's major research interests include the biogeochemistry and cycling of organic carbon in aquatic and sedimentary systems, with emphasis on applications of lipid biomarkers, stable isotopes, studies of sediment diagenesis, and influence of humans on the carbon cycle in coastal ecosystems.

Tracy Collier, Science Advisor, NOAA Oceans and Human Health Program, Silver Spring, MD (recently retired). Dr. Collier has broad experience in fish biology, ecology, environmental toxicology, and the generation of scientific information to support management decisions. In particular, he was recognized for his service in the Hurricane Katrina Emergency Response in New Orleans.

Mike Healey, Professor Emeritus, Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC. Throughout his career, Dr. Healey has taken a strong interest in how scientific information is used in developing resource management policy. He is recognized internationally as an expert on the ecology of Pacific salmon and as an expert in the design of resource management systems. Dr Healey served as the CALFED Lead Scientist and advisor to the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force.

Edward Houde, Professor, University of Maryland, Center for Environmental Science, Solomons, MD. Dr. Houde's research interests include fisheries science and management, larval fish ecology, and fisheries oceanography. He has served as Chair of the National Academy of Science's Committee on Marine Protected Areas and co-chaired the Technical Advisory Panel that developed a Fisheries Ecosystem Plan for Chesapeake Bay.

Judy Meyer, Professor Emeritus, Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA. Dr. Meyer is a nationally recognized expert on aquatic ecology and rivers. Her research interests include organic carbon, ecosystem processes in streams, urban rivers, and food webs. She currently serves on the Board of Environmental Studies and Toxicology of the National Academy of Sciences and served as Vice- Chair of the CALFED Independent Science Board.

Jeffrey Mount, Founding Director, University of California Davis, Center for Watershed Sciences. Dr. Mount's research program focuses on the geology, geomorphology and restoration of lowland river systems. He is also involved in the integration of science and policy in the management of California's rivers. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on the Klamath River and served as Chair of the CALFED Independent Science Board.

Richard Norgaard, Professor, Energy and Resources Group; Professor, Agriculture and Resource Economics, University of California, Berkeley. A pioneer in the field of ecological economics, Dr. Norgaard's recent research addresses how environmental problems challenge scientific understanding and the policy process. He was a member of the CALFED Water Management Science Board and CALFED Independent Science Board.

Vincent Resh, Professor of Entomology, Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Resh's research experience includes over 300 published research studies in wetlands, streams, and large rivers on topics ranging from riverine ecology and habitat restoration to design of monitoring programs. He has served as a long-term consultant on advisory boards of international, intergovernmental agencies and has been an advisor on monitoring programs throughout Africa, Asia, and, to a lesser extent, South America.

John Wiens, Emeritus University Distinguished Professor, Colorado State University; Chief Conservation Science Officer, Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Dr. Wiens is a pioneer in the field of landscape ecology (encompassing geographic and land-use patterns in the study of ecosystems). His work in landscape ecology and the ecology of birds, has led to over 200 scientific papers and seven books. He served as the chief/lead scientist for the Nature Conservancy from 2002-2008.

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